

Matthew H. Mead Governor

State of Wyoming

Department of Workforce Services

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION WYOMING RELAY

851 Werner Court, Ste. 120 = Casper, WY 82601 800.452.1408 or 307.577.0539 V/TTY = Fax: 307.472.5601

dws-wyrelay@wyo.gov www.wyomingworkforce.org



John Cox Director John Ysebaert Deputy Director

CG Docket No. 03-123
DA 17-565
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Marlene H. Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

Reference:

Annual Consumer Complaint Log Summary from June 1, 2016, to May 31, 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(1)(ii), the State of Wyoming, Department of Workforce Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) submits the enclosed annual consumer complaint log summary for the twelve-month period ending May 31, 2017.

We are happy to report there was only one complaint received for the twelve-month period ending May 31, 2017. The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Wyoming Relay program logs all complaints about TRS in the State, whether filed with the TRS provider (Sprint Communications Company, L.P.) or with the State. This log includes the date the complaint was filed, the nature of the complaint, the date of the resolution, an explanation of the resolution, and monthly complaint totals. There is also a tally sheet which indicates the total number of complaints for the year, the monthly totals, and the number of complaints by category. The aforementioned complaint log will be retained until the next application for certification is granted.

Wyoming Relay processes any complaint, regardless of whether it originates via email, fax, telephone, regular mail, outreach events, advisory committee meetings, at workstations, etc.

Both TRS call volume and Captioned Telephone Service (CTS) call volume have continued to decline in Wyoming. For the period of June 1, 2016, through May 31, 2017, the TRS provider completed two thousand, three hundred thirty-four (2,334) traditional TRS outbound calls and seven (7) speech-to-speech outbound calls on behalf of Wyoming Relay. The TRS provider's subcontractor (Captioned Telephone, Inc.) also completed a total of sixteen thousand, eight hundred sixty-six (16,866) CapTel outbound calls on behalf of Wyoming Relay. A total of one (1) customer complaint was received from a CTS user who was unable to make long distance calls.

Wyoming's relay provider (Sprint Communications Company, L.P.) is filing the requested interstate call type data (i.e. traditional TRS, speech-to-speech [STS], captioned telephone service [CTS], Internet protocol [IP] CTS, and IP Relay) under protective seal.

The Wyoming TRS program has been made aware (primarily from the Equipment Distribution Program staff) of customers who are experiencing problems with their analog (i.e. 1-line PTSN) CTS. When the customers contact CTS Customer Service, often the explanation is that the customer's telephone service provider (LEC) has most likely upgraded their lines to digital/fiber lines which are not compatible with the analog CapTel phone, and the customer





should contact their telephone service provider and/or upgrade to an internet model of captioned telephone. Upon contacting their telephone service provider, the customer is told there have been no changes to their lines and/or service. The customer is left feeling frustrated and confused. The captioned telephone service provider recently confirmed they have not been reporting customer service contacts they categorized as billing or product issues to the State on the monthly complaint logs. Therefore, we do not have a good estimate of the number of customers impacted but based upon this information as well as information from other states; we are concerned the problem may be underreported. The customers we have heard from who have been able to obtain high-speed internet service and an internet –based model of captioned telephone service have reported satisfaction with the captioning service. However, there are customers who are unable to afford the increased cost of adding broadband Internet service to their phone service. The amount of subsidy available from the Lifeline program is not enough to offset the increased cost and therefore, the customer is left without functionally equivalent telephone service. We are hopeful that the FCC will continue their efforts to ensure the availability and affordability of broadband Internet access for all citizens as well as work with telecommunications service providers to ensure functionally equivalent telecommunications services access for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-disabled.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §64.604(c)(2), Wyoming's TRS program submits the following contact information for the receipt of inquiries and complaints from consumers:

Lori Cielinski, TRS Program Consultant Department of Workforce Services Division of Vocational Rehabilitation 851 Werner Court, Suite 120 Casper, WY 82601

Voice/TTY: (800) 452-1408 Voice/TTY: (307) 577-0539

Fax: (307) 472-5601

Email: <u>lori.cielinski@wyo.gov</u> or <u>dws-wyrelay@wyo.gov</u>

Internet: www.wyomingrelay.com

All the Wyoming TRS program information, including the contact information, as posted on the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau's website at https://www.fcc.gov/general/trs-state-and-territories has been reviewed and the information is complete and accurate.

The State of Wyoming, Department of Workforce Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has not made in the last sixty (60) days—nor plans to make in the next sixty (60) days—any substantive changes in their TRS program. The State of Wyoming certifies that Wyoming's Telecommunications Relay Service program has met—and will continue to meet—federal minimum standards.

If the information contained within the annual consumer complaint log summary is not sufficient, or if you have any questions, please notify us and we will be happy to provide additional information.

Respectfully.

Lori Cielinski

TRS Program Consultant

Enclosures: Consumer Complaint Log Summary, 1 page

Wyoming Relay Complaint Tally Sheet, 3 pages



